

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING DIRECTIONS FOR DRIVING

Abstract of the Disclosure

~~A system and method of providing information (such as directions) to a driver of a~~
vehicle with the capability of presenting such information while the driver is driving the car and
5 without requiring that the driver remove his eyes from looking out the windshield at the road
ahead. A positioning device is associated with the vehicle and determines the present location of
the vehicle. The present location of the vehicle is compared with a desired location (e.g., the
location of a desired turn at an intersection) necessary to reach a preset destination which has
been stored in an on-board memory. When the vehicle is in a predetermined relationship (e.g.,
10 500 feet or 10 second before the intersection), an advisory message is provided to the driver by
projecting the message on the windshield using a heads-up display projector so that the driver
can prepare for and make the necessary movement (e.g., turning the correct way at the desired
intersection). An optional auditory signal can be provided to give the driver an additional
message indicating the necessary action, either in general ("look at windshield for action" or a
15 bell or chime) or specifically indicate the necessary action through the use of a speech
synthesizer which provides an audible instruction (such as "turn right at Main"), with optionally
different sound indicators depending on the urgency of the action. A wireless receiver can be
used with the processing unit and projector display of the present invention for displaying on the
windshield other information such as road conditions, traffic and weather information, as well
20 as advertising and e-mail. The present invention contemplates that images of intersections (live
pictures, photos or sketches) may be displayed to indicate the proper turn and provide landmark
information to assist in determining the appropriate turn.